

Application No.: 10/784,597

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437 CIPCIPCIPCIPCIPCON VI

REMARKS

The above-noted revisions to the specification, claims and abstract are respectfully submitted prior to initiation of the prosecution of this application in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

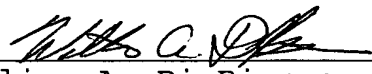
No new matter is included in these amendments. In addition, the revisions are submitted in order to clarify, correct and to conform the specification, claims and abstract to all of the requirements of U.S. practice.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that these amendments now be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application now be initiated. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe such action can be taken, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any objections which he may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 15, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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ARTIFICIAL INTERVERTEBRAL DISC TRIALS HAVING A CYLINDRICAL  
ENGAGEMENT SURFACE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** The present application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application 10/282,356 (filed October 29, 2002) entitled "Instrumentation and Methods For Use In Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc", now U.S. Pat. No. 7,169,182 ("the '182 patent"), which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/256,160 (filed September 26, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,989,032 ("the '032 patent"), which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/175,417 (filed June 19, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball Joint Coupling", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled "Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an Intervertebral Space", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 (filed October 4, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,730 ("the '730 patent") as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", now abandoned the former being a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/968,046 (filed October 1, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves", now abandoned and the latter being a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number ~~09/970,479~~ the '730 patent (detailed above) as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/128,619 (filed April 23, 2002) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,863,689

("the '689 patent"), which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/906,119 (filed July 16, 2001) and entitled "Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,607,559 ("the '559 patent") as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/982,148 (filed October 18, 2001) and entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,673,113 ("the '113 patent"). All of the above mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entireties.